

Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes 11 July 2021

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 25 members present.

Phil provided the members with a status report. Phil thanked Steve Prentice and Troy Higgins for using their personal mowers to keep the field usable while the club mower was undergoing repairs.

Phil asked new members to introduce themselves. Bob Curry and Troy Higgins spoke up; later, Sadry Tavana and Bill Bentley introduced themselves. Phil then had all club members provide their name for the new members.

Phil then asked for the Treasurer's report. Michael reported that the club has a balance of \$2,746.43 in the checking account and \$1,624.09 in the reserve account. The checking balance does not include two uncleared transactions: a deposit of \$90 (dues) and a payment of \$491.23 (mower repair) resulting in an uncleared balance of \$2,345.20. Since the last meeting, the club spent \$71.21 for field repairs and \$12.00 for mower gas. The club received \$540 in dues and \$480 (courtesy of Phil) in net proceeds from the donations covering Woody's RC equipment.

Michael provided information on the AMA TRUST knowledge course. A member with a Part 107 certificate (commercial drone permit) must complete the TRUST course to fly recreationally at the club field. A member asked if the club needed to be informed of the certificate number and Michael answered with the AMA guideline: AMA info required to be on the model; enforced by the club, but FAA drone registration and TRUST certificate numbers to be enforced by the FAA – not the AMA and not the affiliated clubs.

Phil then asked for the Field Marshal's report. As Steve was unable to attend, Phil reminded the members that, in the Fall, the field will be reseeded and irrigation can be provided by our host, Albert. Albert had informed a few members that he can let the club use the irrigation piping, but we would need a pump. Bob Curry mentioned that he has a 100HP pump that might be usable; Steve will investigate that.

Phil reminded folks to use the removable fence to the pit area that Steve installed; untie to drive in, reset by the last person leaving. We still have folks who drive to our pit area, realize their mistake, then turn around on the runway. The pit fence should keep inadvertent drivers from leaving ruts on the field.

The fencing described at the May 2nd meeting is still under consideration, but it is unclear if the work should be deferred until after the reseeding. In the meantime, please use the rope/PC pit fence described in the previous paragraph.

Phil then asked for the Safety Officer's report. Mark remarked that some folks have been flying without being in the vicinity of one of the three pilot stations. He emphasized that the club guidelines require a pilot to be "in the vicinity of" a station so that other pilots will know if they can fly (pilot limit is three.)

Mark also observed that some folks fly too close to their position such that they might lose orientation looking directly above, or even behind themselves thereby potentially losing control of their model and crashing in the pit area or even hitting a person or vehicle. Mark recommended keeping the model about

450 above and in front. Flying behind is not allowed as it is above or behind the pit area and also the sun can interfere with control.

Phil added the reminder to announce takeoff/landing/etc. and to be cognizant of full-size activity. We had one complaint (previously discussed) and we want to keep our good relationship with the airport manager. A club member asked how low full-size activity can be observed; planes usually above 500' around our operations, but helicopters can descend to ground level.

Phil then asked if there was any new business. Phil reminded folks about the dock repair issue that was brought up at the May meeting, but not discussed. Phil feels that (1) the current dock is unsafe and (2) we're in the middle of the flying season, so it would be nice if the dock was either repaired or removed. Members seem to be in favor of having a working dock for planes and boats. There was discussion about a ballpark budget to guide Steve. After a lot of discussion, a motion was made to have, as a guide, the amount of \$750. Alan Ramsdell has some decking material that could be used, but the condition of the current floats is unknown. Phil expressed his opinion that it would be better to take the dock out as part of a repair or replace operation rather than removing the dock without a plan to go forward.

There was nothing else to report, so the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM followed immediately by the club picnic. Phil thanked Richard Hennesy in advance for organizing the picnic and manning the grill.

Michael Pilla, Secretary

ADDENDUM 1: Rich Hennesy kindly packaged utensils and single-use condiment packets along with individual small bags of chips; all this to limit possible risk of Covid-19 exposure. The food was outstanding, as well; thanks, Richard.

ADDENDUM 2: Jason Langlois shared some photos that he took during the picnic. The photos have been uploaded to the club's website and can be seen [here](https://strawberrypatchrcpilots.org/picnic-11-july-2021/) (<https://strawberrypatchrcpilots.org/picnic-11-july-2021/>).

ATTACHMENT: Sketch of proposed runway / pit area improvements.

